

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 01178 280614Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

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R 280510Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9568

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WELLINGTON 1178

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, NZ

SUBJECT: PUBLIC OPINION POLL SHOWS DECREASE IN SUPPORT FOR LABOUR

1. NEW ZEALAND HEARLD POLL TAKEN WEEK OF MARCH 15 AND PUBLISHED APRIL 26 SHOWS 46 PERCENT OF VOTERS SUPPORTING NATIONAL PARTY AND 42 PERCENT SUPPORTING LABOUR. THE HERALD'S NOVEMBER 1974 POLL GAVE EACH PARTY THE SUPPORT OF 44 PERCENT OF THOSE POLLED. RESULTS CONTRAST WITH 1972 ELECTIONS WHEN LABOUR RECEIVED 48 PERCENT OF VOTES AND PERCENTAGE IS LOWEST FOR LABOUR SINCE 1972. NOT SURPRISING INFLATION REMAINS MAIN CONCERN OF PUBLIC. ECONOMY IN GENERAL (APART FOR INFLATION) IS MAJOR CONCERN OF 14 PERCENT, UP FOR FOUR PERCENT A YEAR AGO.

2. COMMENT: WITH ABOUT NINE MONTHS LEFT BEFORE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS, MAJOR QUESTION IS JUST HOW POLL SHOULD BE INTERPRETED. OBVIOUSLY, LABOUR HAS LOST A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF SUPPORT AND HAS ITS WORK CUT OUT FOR ITSELF. POLL, UNFORTUNATELY, DOES NOT SHOW WHERE SUPPORT WAS LOST. EXTRA-
POPLATING FROM 1972 RESULTS, AND EXCLUDING MINIO PARTIES,
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FOR PERCENT SWING SPREAD NATIONWIDE WOULD RESULT IN

NATIONAL'S PICKING UP NINE SEATS BUT LEAVING LABOUR WITH A
WORKABLE SEVEN VOTE MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT. PREDICTING
ELECTIONS RESULTS NINE MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF THE FACT WOULD
BE FUTILE EXERCISE. FOR THE MOMENT EMBASSY WOULD
NOTE TWO MAJOR POLITICAL FACTORS AT WORK IN BODY
POLITIC. FIRST IS NEW ZEALAND TRADITION OF GIVING
GOVERNMENTS MORE THAN ONE TERM TO PUT THEIR PROGRAMS ABOUT
THE ECONOMY. EXTENT TO WHICH ECONOMIC CONCERNS OVERCOME
TRADITIONAL ATTITUDES WILL DECIDE ELECTIONS.
KILLGORE

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